APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER
IRSHADULLAH, M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3623	

DATE MAILED: 03/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)
	09/748,837		CURTIS ET AL
	Examiner		Art Unit
	M. Irshadullah		3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>27 December 2000</u> .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-23</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-23</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) <u>16</u> is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>6</u> .

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1.   Claim 16 is objected to because of the following informalities:

a) Claim 16 appears to be numbered twice on pages 29 and 30. Applicant may like to change the claim on page 30 to be numbered as 17 and amend the subsequent claim numbers accordingly.

Appropriate correction as mentioned above and any others throughout the specification are appreciably required for the benefit of the Patent community.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 1-23 (with second claim 16 considered as 17) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al (SP-to-SP Service Ordering Specification and its implementation) in view of Safadi (US Patent 5,847,751).

Chen et al show:

Claim 1.   A system for supporting the management of an integrated communications

provider (ICP) (Abstract, lines 1-3, 14-18 recited with page 82, lines 7-9 and Figs. 1, 2, 6.

Reference's MSP is the claimed ICP), said system comprising:

a) a computer processor means for inputting and processing information (Fig. 7,

described page 87, lines 15-30. From the citations, Applicant will appreciably realize that the

reference system were employing a computer which inherently would have a processor

controlling or supporting the functions of inputting, displaying, computation (processing) etc.)

necessary to the management of an ICP (forementioned functions would be used by MSP (ICP)

for managing the provision of TMN service);

b) wherein the computer processor further comprises a graphical user interface (Fig. 7

(GUI), page 87, line 29, page 88, lines 10-11) for displaying information or data entry prompting

requests to a human operator (Cited GUI would be used by reference system users including a

human operator for claimed limitations);

c) a pre-order management component (page 82, lines 19-20, 21-22 and page 83, lines 10-

11 read with lines 18-20. Applicant will appreciate that citations infer the availability of a

program module (component) for claimed pre-order management) comprising instructions for

retrieving customer service records from telecommunication service providers (formentioned

program would have codes or instructions for obtaining (retrieving) customer records (Fig. 6

(customer record) and page 85, Fig. A (Get customer profile-arrow directing from left (MSP) to

right SSP) and (Customer profile) being retrieved from SSP (telco. service provider-page 82, line

15) as indicated by arrow pointing from right to left) and parsing said customer service records

into reports containing equivalent ICP services (page 88, lines 15-16 and 17 read with page 81,

line 1-3-billing in line 3 and page 83, line 17. Applicant will appreciate that reference's "sub-

processing" infers the system's capability of "breaking (parsing)" customer's information

(records) into various requisite portions and reference's "bill" creating function would be used

for preparing claimed reports comprising services which would be available from the MSP

(ICP)-equivalent ICP services. Furthermore, bill itself is a report which comprises (contains)

items broken up from the customer services usage transaction records, the same function would

be used for crafting the claimed report);

In the following element Chen et al do not show the undernoted claimed features:

d) a gateway for transferring information to and receiving information from

telecommunication service providers;

However, Safadi teaches the same (Fig. 1 (20), col. 5, lines 35-44. Applicant will appreciate that

Safadi's VIPs (video information providers) are the telecom. service providers to VIUs (video

information users) through a network-abstract, lines 1-3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the relevant art at the time of applicant's

invention to incorporate Safadi's features into Chen et al's system,therebyy providing a system

with enhanced capability and extended functionality.

e) a service management component (Fig. 3 (RFS, Service offer, Service order, Service),

page 83, lines 1-23 and page 86, lines 8-10. The citations clearly infer the presence or availability

of claimed service management program module (component) comprising instructions (said

program would inherently comprise codes (instructions) for creating and tracking work plans

(page 86, 3, page 87, line 3 and page 81, line 14);

f) wherein said work plans (as discussed above) comprise a work activity event for

performing installation or troubleshooting (page 80, lines 1-3 and page 87, line 9-10 wherein

"service management" and "fault management" and "leased lines" indicate to claimed service

installation and trouble shooting) of each sub-model component of a telecommunications service

provided by the ICP to a customer (Fig. 2, page 82, lines 7-14. Here, B, C and D and E indicate

the claimed sub-model components of services provided by A to Customer);

g) a circuit management component comprising instructions for creating a hierarchal list

comprising ICP on-net circuit assignments and off-net circuit assignments (page 80, lines 1-2,

page 87, line 13 (software) and Fig. 7 (Database). Here, cited software and "defined set of basic

processes" would encompass program(s) module(s) to enter (create) information relating to

components available with (owned by) MSP (ICP)-on-net (Background-Specification, page 6,

line 4) and components it would acquire from other participating or contracting partners (SSP)-

off-net (Background, Specification, page 6, line 5) in file (list or hierarchical list) format in the

cited database);

h) wherein said circuit management component (as discussed above) further comprises

instructions for creating a cutover work plan (page 88, line 22 recited with page 81, line 14. Here,

firm order pointing to claimed cutover plan);

I) wherein said circuit management component (as discussed above) further comprises an

automatic means of receiving requests from trading partners of the ICP (Fig. 6 (MSP-ICP and

SSP where SSP are contracting (trading) partners and page 81, lines 17-18, page 86, line 11);

j) wherein said requests from trading partners are either rejected or inserted into said

hierarchal list (page 85, Fig. A (pre-order reject and order reject and page 86, line 3 (creation).

Citations clearly show rejection by SSP and alternative entering (inserting) into database is

inherently inferred);

k) a design management component (page 87, line 13 (software) read with page 82, line

18 and page 85, lines 6-7. Citations infer a program module (component) for managing design)

comprising instructions for automatically selecting a communications service model (said

program would have codes (instructions) and reference's "automation" function (page 81, lines

17-18 and page 86, line 11) would be used for claimed purpose);

l) decomposing said service model into sub-model components and creating a

communications design therefrom (page 88, lines 15-16 and 17 and page 82, line 18, page 85,

lines 6-7. Reference's "sub-processing" function infers "breaking-up (decomposing)" and

"design" function and said functions would be used for claimed purpose); and

m) wherein said design management component (as discussed above) further comprises instructions (as discussed above) for automatically issuing service requests to ICP trading partners (page 81, line 18, ,page 85, lines 6-7 recited with page 81, lines 32-33, Fig. 4 (issue a pre-order request as indicated by arrow from MSP (ICP) toward SSP and page 85, Fig. A (place an order and arrow showing MSP toward SSP).

Claims 2, 9 and 18.   The system, wherein the customer service records are retrieved using electronic data exchange with said telecommunication service providers (Chen et al: Fig A (Get customer Profile- arrow from MSP to SSP) and SSP (Customer Profile-arrow from SSP to MSP) and use of electronic data interchange (exchange) is inherent, since data are being trasferred (exchaged) among computers, the electronic devices).

Claims 3, 10 and 19.   The system, wherein the gateway (See discussion of Applicant's claim 1d) above) conforms to order and billing forum requirements for electronic data exchange (Chen et al: page 85, line 4 (conform), page 80, lines 10 and 3 and discussion about electronic data exchange above).

In the following claims:

Claims 4, 11 and 20. The system, wherein the gateway comprises instructions for

validation checking in conformance with local service ordering guidelines and access service

ordering guidelines established by telecommunication service providers.

Chen et al show the undernoted features:

local service ordering guidelines and access service access guidelines established by

telecommunication service providers (page 85, lines 1-2); yet

Chen et al do not show the features below:

gateway comprises instructions for validation checking.

However, Safadi teaches the same (Col. 5, lines 36 and 38).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the relevant art at the time of instant

invention to include Safadi's features into Chen et al's system, thereby providing a system with

enhanced capability and extended functionality.

Claims 5, 12 and 21. The system, wherein the design management component further

comprises an optimizing algorithm (Chen et al: page 82, line 18 and page 85, lines 6-7 read with

page 87, line 13. Regarding optimizing algorithm, it is inherent, since optimization is the basic

requisite of a program (algorithm) including design management one).

Claims 6, 13 and 22. The system, wherein the processor comprises a hosting processor means and a network connectivity means, said network connectivity means further comprising connectivity to a network selected from the group of networks including a local area network, the Internet, an intranet, a wireless network, a wireless local loop network, or a network comprised of combinations of local area networks, the Internet, intranets, wireless networks, and wireless local loop networks (Chen et al: Fig. 6 (server), page 86, line 11, Fig. 7 (SP Server objects, page 87, line 18 and 28-29, Figs. 4, 5, A, 6-8) depict network connectivity which would encompass the claimed forms).

Claims 7, 14 and 23. The system, wherein the graphical user interface is displayed using hypertext markup language (Chen et al: Fig. 7 (GUI) and page 80, line 19 and page 86, line 8).

Claim 8.　　A system for managing sales proposals (Chen et al: page 87, lines 1-2) of an integrated communications provider (ICP) ((See the discussion of Applicant's claim 1 preamble above), said system comprising:

a) a computer processor means for inputting and processing information necessary to the management of an ICP (See the discussion of Applicant's claim 1a) above);

b) a gateway for transferring information to and receiving information from telecommunication service providers (See the discussion of Applicant's claim 1d) above);

c) a pre-order management component comprising instructions for retrieving customer service records from telecommunication service providers and parsing said customer service records into reports containing equivalent ICP services (See the discussion of Applicant's claim 1c) above);

d) a design management component comprising instructions for selecting a communications service model (See the discussion of Applicant's claim 1k) above);

e) decomposing said service model into sub-model components and creating a communication services sales proposal therefrom (See the discussion of Applicant's claim 1l) above and Chen et al: page 87, lines 1-2);

f) wherein subsequent versions of said sales proposal are automatically created (Chen et al: page 80, line 8, page 81, lines 7-9 read with page 81, lines 7-18 and page 87, lines 1-2. Reference's "modelling", "automating" would be used to develop (create) ciuted proposals (sales proposals) subsequent to a request from a human operator for alternate communication service models (Chen et al: page 81, lines 12-13. Applicant will appreciate that reference's "negotiation" infer back and forth discussion (requests and responses) between the parties involved including an operator (human opoerator) and said proposal would be developed (created) after one party (customer, MSP etc.) requests so to said operator);

g) wherein said design management component further comprises instructions for issuing service requests to ICP trading partners (See the discussion of Applicant's claim 1m) above);

h) wherein such requests to ICP trading partners comprise requests for local service request, assignment of telephone number request, assignment of Internet protocol address, and requests for data broadband services (Chen et al: page 81, lines 31-33 and page 87, line 9. Applicant will apprecitae that "voice" infers telephone number request from local service provider, web infers request for IP address and data encompasses broadband service).

i) wherein said design management component further comprises instructions for creating cutover reports subsequent to acceptance of a sales proposal by a customer (See the discussion of Applicant's claim 1h) above);

j) a service management component comprising instructions for creating and tracking work plans (See the discussion of Applicant's claim 1e) above);

k) wherein said work plans comprise a work activity event for performing installation or troubleshooting of each sub-model component of a telecommunications service provided by the ICP to a customer (See the discussion of Applicant's claim 1f) above); and

l) a circuit management component comprising instructions for creating a hierarchal list of ICP on-net circuit assignments (See the discussion of Applicant's claim 1g) above).

Claim 15.   A system for managing sales proposals of an integrated communications provider (ICP), comprising:

a) a computer processor means for inputting and processing information necessary to the management of an ICP (See the discussion of Applicant's claim 8a) above);

b) a gateway for transferring information to and receiving information from

telecommunication service providers (See the discussion of Applicant's claim 8b) above);

c) a pre-order management component comprising instructions for retrieving customer

service records from telecommunication service providers and parsing said customer service

records into reports containing equivalent ICP services (See the discussion of Applicant's claim

8c) above);

d) a design management component comprising instructions for selecting a

communications service model (See the discussion of Applicant's claim 8d) above);

e) decomposing said service model into sub-model components and creating a

communication services sales proposal therefrom (See the discussion of Applicant's claim 8e)

above);

f) wherein subsequent versions of said sales proposal are automatically created

subsequent to a request from a human operator for alternate communication service models (See

the discussion of Applicant's claim 8f) above).

Claim 16.   The system of claim 15 wherein the design management component

further comprises instructions for compiling sales proposals from multiple customer locations

into a single consolidated sales proposal (Chen et al: page 82, line 18 recited with page 87, lines

1-2. Reference's "billing, page 83, line 17" function would be used to combine (consolidate)

various proposals into a single one, as will be appreciated that bill is a combined statement of various transactions and other data).

Claim 17.   The system of claim 15 wherein the created sales proposals comprise a comparison between existing communication services and ICP provided services (Chen et al: page 87, lines 1-2 read with page 81, lines 12-13. Reference's "comparing" function would be used for claimed limitation).

Conclusion

4.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

A) Farrell et al., US Patent 6,282,518 B1. Process For internet Ordering Of Industrial Products.

B) Meijer et al., US Patent 6,141,647. System And method For Integrating A Business Environment, A process Control Environment And A Laboratory Environment.

C) Chiman et al., US Patent 6,038,668. System, Method And Medium For Retrieving, Organizing And Utilizing Networked data.

D) Farris, US Patent 5,541,917. Video And Telco Network Control Functionality.

E) Wiedeman et al., US Patent 5,526,404. Worldwide Satellite Telephone System And A network Coordinating Gateway For Allocating Satellite And Terrestrial Gateway resources.

F) Hardy et al., US Patent 5,287,270. Billing System.

G) Dworkin, US Patent 4,992,940. System And Method For Automated Selection Of

Equipment For Purchase Through Input Of User Desired Specification.

5.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to M. Irshadullah whose telephone number is (703) 308-6683. The examiner

can normally be reached on M-F from 11:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor , Tariq Hafiz, can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax number for the organization

is (703) 305-7687.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-3900.

M. Irshadullah

March 03, 2003

TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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